arrest, detention or conviction, as the case may be, as also the place of detention or imprisonment of the member in the appropriate forms prescribed by the Speaker.''

Rule 246 reads as follows :—

'' When a member is arrested and after conviction released on bail pending an appeal or otherwise released, such fact shall also be intimated to the Speaker by the authority concerned in the appropriate form prescribed by the Speaker.''

Rule 247 reads as follows :—

'' As soon as may be, the Speaker shall, after he has received a communication referred to in rule 245 or rule 246 read it out in the House if in session, or if the House is not in session, direct that it may be published in the information sheet for the information of the members.''

Acccording to the rule, I have received a letter from the First Assistant Registrar, Original Side, High Court, Madras which reads as follows :—

'' Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that Sri M. Kalyanasundaram, Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly, was tried by the High Court of Judicature at Madras on a charge of contempt of this Court under section 5 of the Contempt of Courts Act XXXII of 1952 and under Article 215 of the Constitution of India.

On 10th February 1961 by an order of this Court in Contempt Application No. 8 of 1960 the said Sri M. Kalayanasundaram was found guilty of contempt of this Court and sentenced by this Court to pay a fine of Rs. 100 (rupees one hundred) and in default of payment of the said fine, to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of six weeks. As the said fine amount has not yet been paid, the warrant of arrest and detention has been issued by this Court on 14th February 1961.''

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS IN THE TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN : Under rule 41 of the Assembly Rules I wish to bring to the notice of this revered House a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the inadequate and belated supply of chemical fertilizers to the agriculturists of Tirunelveli district and malpractices in the issue of permits which require investigation. I would request the Hon. Minister to make a statement.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I would like to make the following statement :—

The allotments of nitrogenous fertilizers are made by the Government of India under the Central Pool arrangements. As the indigenous production of fertilizers in this country is inadequate

to meet the demand, imports are being made by the Government of India. But, in view of the present difficult foreign exchange position the centre is not able to meet the full requirements of this State. The allocations made by Government of India are about 50 per cent of our demand. Out of the quantity made available to this State, roughly 25 per cent is set apart for distribution to the manure mixing firms for use in the preparation of manure mixtures and the balance is being distributed to each district on a rational basis according to its needs and also availability of stocks. The stock and supply position as indicated by the fortnightly returns received from the district stockholders is reviewed by the Board of Revenue (Food Production) and despatch instructions to the districts are issued with a view to ensure adequate supplies to the needy areas.

The potential demand of fertilizers for the various crops in Tirunelveli district is 26,357 tons of Ammonium Sulphate per year; the annual average consumption in the three years 1957–60 in the district was 12,586 tons in terms of Ammonium Sulphate. The quantity of 109,450 tons allocated by the Government of India to this State so far during 1960–61 was distributed to the manure-mixing firms and the various districts as best as could be done and a quantity of 7,075 tons in terms of Ammonium Sulphate was thus supplied to the district and this supply worked out favourably in comparison with the supplies made to other districts. In view of the limited stocks, restrictions in distribution were inevitable. The Collector of the district had discusions with the District Agricultural Officers as to how best the available stocks could be distributed. It was decided by the Collector that the release of fertilizers should be confined to paddy crop alone and should be only against cash or loan permits. With a view to see that the requirements of the large number of smaller ryots are met to the extent possible, the maximum quantity of fertilizers that should be released per acre and the maximum quantity per individual ryot were fixed as follows :—

Name of Fertilizer.	*Maximum per acre.*	*Maximum per ryot.*
1 Ammonium Sulphate or Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate. Calcium Ammonium Nitrate.	20 Kilos (44 lb.)	200 Kilos (2 bags)
2 Urea (containing double nitrogen content of Ammonium Sulphate).	10 Kilos (22 lb.)	100 Kilos (1bag)

In reckoning the extent of each individual, only registered wet land or dry land regularly included in the ayacut of any particular irrigation source held by the individual was to be taken into consideration. Hence the karnams were required to certify and furnish clear information on this point in the application for permits from ryots. A detailed programme for the release of stocks was drawn up by the Collector in consultation with the District Agricultural Officers, taking into account the area under paddy, Block and non-Blockwise, the crop-pattern and the period for the application of fertilizers in the different areas with reference to

local conditions. The dates for the releases were also decided in consultation with the District Agricultural Officers. The programme was adhered to and the position was reviewed at frequent intervals taking into consideration further arrivals of stocks. Priority was given to the assured water supply areas of the district and releases for each area were strictly based on the requirements of extent of the registered wet lands comprised in the area at 20 kilos per acre. Detailed instructions were issued by the Collector to all the subordinate officers on the basis for the distribution and the need for the prompt issue of permits for cash and loans. The subordinate officers were directed to camp at convenient centres in each area and to issue permits on the spot, after notifying the dates in advance. They were also instructed to keep in personal touch with the movement of stocks to the several distribution depots and their proper issue against permits issued by competent authority. The Collector was able to equitably distribute 20 kilos or 44 lb. per acre with the limited stock thereby ensuring supplies to all alike, leaving little room for malpractices. A certain amount of inconvenience and, possibly delay in some cases, might have been caused to the ryots in obtaining stocks under the permit system, but it is unavoidable considering the fact that the system serves the larger interests of the ryots in assuring equiable distribution of the available stocks.

The real difficulty was the meagre stock position. But this difficulty is being experienced throughout the State and it is not peculiar to any one district or area. Even with the inadequate allocations made to this State, every effort is being made to see that the minimum needs of all districts are met proportionately without any discrimination whatsoever consistent with the acreage, actual needs of the ryots and the stock position.

MR. SPEAKER : I am hearing a hum from somewhere in the House. I do not know from where it is coming. I was not able to follow the Hon. Minister's speech. May I request, wherever that hum comes from, that it should stop so that we can follow the proceedings.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS STATE HOUSING BOARD BILL, 1961 (L.A. BILL NO. 31 OF 1960).

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I move that the Madras State Housing Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 31 of 1960) as amended by the Select Committee[a], be taken into consideration.

As the Hon. Members are aware, the need for the provision of housing accommodation for the public, and the planned expansion of villages, towns and cities, have assumed national importance. The Central and the State Governments have, therefore, undertaken a large measure of responsibility for financing housing and

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 90-151 infra.